

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration and full allowance of Claims 1-20.


The Examiner maintains the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,816,364 issued to Helot. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to Figure 3 of Helot, which depicts the "part-exploded" view of Figure 1 in an assembled condition (2:61-67). Figure 3 clarifies that the constricted gate configuration 28 and the limbs 29 of Helot are integrated in the mounting plate 23. In an assembled condition, the mounting plate does not "extend outward from the stand" as recited by Claim 1 and is not "extending outward from the support member" as recited by Claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of Claims 1 and 9.

The Examiner maintains the rejection of independent Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0084579 by Cho in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,613,981 issued to Hancock. The Examiner has failed to provide any motivation to combine Cho and Hancock from within the references themselves. As currently stated, the Examiner's rejection is an improper hindsight reconstruction using unrelated devices. Further, even if combined as the Examiner has done, nothing in Cho and Hancock teaches, discloses or suggests a support arm perpendicular to the ring with a coupling device that "maintains the ring in substantially parallel alignment with the stand" as is recited by Claim 16. The ring of Hancock aligns parallel with the support arm. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 16.

CONCLUSION

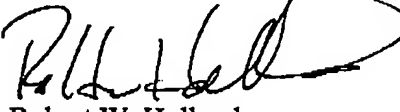
In view of the remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent to the
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS via the USPTO Central
Facsimile on June 6, 2005.



Attorney for Applicant(s) Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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